

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 /095 W

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R 191141Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3636

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 1193

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0240

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, AO, PO,SF

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN REFUGEES: SITUATION AS MORNING JANUARY 19.

REF: PRETORIA 0200, PRETORIA 0211

1. AN INITIAL GROUP OF ABOUT 600 PEOPLE FROM AMONG ANGOLAN REFUGEES WHICH NOW REPORTEDLY NUMBER NEARLY 2700 WILL BE ALLOWED TO LAND AT WALVIS BAY JANUARY 19, FROM WHERE THEY WILL BE TAKEN BY TRAIN TO WINDHOEK TO BE FLOWN TO PORTUGAL. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES SCREENING THOSE WHO CLAIM PORTUGUESE CITIZENSHIP HAVE COMPLETED THE PROCESS ABOARD THE SHIP SILVER SKY WHICH HOLDS MORE THAN HALF OF THE REFUGEES. PRESS ALSO STATES THAT NUMBER OF REFUGEES IS EXPECTED TO SWELL TO MORE THAN 4000 WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS WHEN MINI-ARMADA OF FISHING VESSELS ARRIVES CARRYING 1500 ANGOLANS FLEEING FROM LOBITO AND BENGUELA.

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2. RAND DAILY MAIL OF JANUARY 17 REPORTS THAT AT LEAST ONE REFUGEE SHIP FLED MOCAMEDES UNDER FIRE AND THAT TWO OF ITS CREW MEMBERS WERE TREATED FOR GUNSHOT WOUNDS. BOAT IS DESCRIBED AS BEING " RIDDLED WITH MACHINE GUN BULLETS" RECEIVED DURING ATTACK BY UNITA FORCES ON ANGOLAN PORT. THIS STORY IS BACKED UP BY COMMENTS OF CAPTAIN OF SILVER SKY WHO IS QUOTED AS SAYING, " THERE WAS TALK OF A MASSACRE AND FIGHTING BETWEEN FNLA AND UNITA TROOPS. THE PEOPLE JUST PANICKED AND STORMED MY SHIP." OTHER REFUGEES TOLD PRESS THAT UNITA HAD TURNED ON FNLA AND FORCED THEM OUT OF MOCAMEDES.

3. CONDITIONS ABOARD REFUGEE SHIPS APPARENTLY REMAIN GRIM DESPITE EFFORTS TO SUPPLY NECESSARY FOOD AND MEDICAL SERVICES. RED CROSS TEAMS REPORTEDLY ARE VISITING SHIPS BUT FEARS CONTINUE THAT DISEASE COULD BREAK OUT BECAUSE OF EXTREMELY OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS. WALVIS BAY PORT CAPTAIN SAID SUPPLIES AND MEDICAL TEAMS " WERE NOT EVEN MAINTAINING THE BROKEN HEALTH OF MANY REFUGEES, AND OFFICIALS WERE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE." THUS FAR, HOWEVER, ONLY FOURTEEN PEOPLE HAVE HAD TO BE TAKEN TO HOSPITALS IN WALVIS.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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